

# DO'S AND DONT'S OF BASIC BONSAI WIRING



**TECHNIQUE**

- Evenly spaced bends angled at 45°
- Wire too loose
- Uneven and unsightly wire
- Twisted wire
- Crossed wires
- Wire wrapping multiple branches
- Trunk or branch with heavily textured bark
- Wire spaced too close
- Wire spaced too wide
- Wire too tight

## WIRING TRUNK OF A BONSAI TREE

- Use a wire that is one third longer than the length of the trunk of the bonsai.  
Insert one end of the wire at a right angle in the soil.  
Use a wire with appropriate thickness.
- Double-wire a thick trunk for adding more strength.
- When using multiple wires together, *Do not* twist the wires.
- Gently bend the branch in the desired direction aligning with the trunk.
- In case the old apex of the tree is cut off, wire the closest branch with the wire wrapped on the trunk.
- Leave the wire on the tree till the bonsai permanently attains the shape.

## WIRING BRANCH OF A BONSAI TREE

- In case there is no place to secure the wire, secure the wire under the winding.
- Correct: Make the first turn over the branch.
- Incorrect: Do Not make the turn underneath the branch. Branch will break.
- Start from down and take the wire over the branch when bending downwards.
- Start from above and take the wire under the branch when bending upwards.
- Spaced out branches can be wired with a single wire as shown.
- Wiring branches with multiple wires.
- Switch to a thinner wire when the thickness of the branch reduces.
- Make sure that the bend is at the point where the wire curves. This provides maximum support.
- Coil the secondary wire around the primary wire. Anchor the secondary wire at the intersection of the branch.
- Shortening the length of the branch by wiring.
- Wiring the secondary branches of a bonsai. Perform the primary branch wiring as shown.

## OTHER BONSAI TRAINING TECHNIQUES

- Covering the wire with raffia or paper.
- Bending branch by tying it to the trunk.
- Instead of using commercial branch benders, you can even use sticks as shown to achieve interesting bends on the trunk.
- Straightening a trunk using metal rod.
- Shaping the trunk by tying wires to the bonsai pot.
- Suspended wiring technique to bend branches.
- Lowering a branch using weights.
- Correcting the shape of a trunk using metal rod.
- Bring branches close together gradually to avoid breakage.

## TRAINING BONSAI WITHOUT USING WIRES

Small branch bender used to bend small to medium sized branches.

Big branch bending jack with option of more adjustment. This can be used to bend thicker branches and trunks.

Wooden bridge with two pieces of padding.

A wooden bridge can be used to space two branches. This can also be used in the center of the tree to create spacing for better air and light penetration.